— Inflight catering has been improved through quality control checks, introduction of 14 different new menus, introduction of new crockery and cutlery in Executive class.

Airports on Air Taxi Map

935. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 259, given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th November, 1991 and state:

(a) what is the number of air taxies that are under operation at present; and

(b) the names of Airports which have been brought under air taxi map in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, six permits have been issued for operation of air taxi services.

(b) The air taxi operators are permitted to operate to all airports open to scheduled operations.

Modernisation of Coal Mines

936. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of coal mines at present in the country;

(b) what was the production capacity of each of the coal mines against actual production during the last three years;

(c) whether any modernisation plans have been chalked out or are under execution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) There are 520 coal mines in the country.

(b) Production capacity and actual production of Coal India Limited and Singreni Collieries Limited for last three years are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 23]

(c) and (d) Modernisation of coal industry is a continuous process and is taken up progressively in both underground and opencast mines. Modernisation is being done gradually by introduction of modern mining methods. Some of the modern mining methods being introduced are as follows:—

(i) Deployment of large capacity shovels, dumpers and draglines in opencast mines.

(ii) Impit crushing & conveying system for overburden and coal.

(iii) Introduction of mechanised Board & Pillar system.

(iv) Introduction of Side Discharge Loaders/Load Haul Dumpers.

(v) Introduction of continuous Miners such as Road Headers.

(vi) Powered Support Longwall technology.

(vii) Augur-cum-Drills.

(viii) Blasting Gallery method.

(ix) Hydraulic Mining.

Modernisation of coal mines has resulted in overall increase in coal production and productivity.

अपीलीय प्राधिकरण द्वारा मामलों का निपटान

937. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कोयलाधारक क्षेत्र (अर्जन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के अधीन अपीलीय प्राधिकरण के समक्ष पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान कितने मामले आये और उनमें से कितने मामलों का निपटान किया गया ;